

## **India Statement on Agenda Item 2: General debate during the 19<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General Conference**

**To be delivered by Ambassador Jaideep Mazumdar**

**29 November – 3 December 2021,**

Mr. President, [H.E. **Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani**, Permanent Representative of Tunisia]

I congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO. I also welcome the other members of the Bureau and assure you of our full cooperation in the successful conduct of this General Conference.

2. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.

Mr. President,

3. The 19<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO is being organized under circumstances that we could hardly foresee when we held the 18<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO in Abu Dhabi. In the Abu Dhabi Declaration, we then recognized that eradicating poverty, combating climate change and environmental degradation and its impacts are among the greatest global challenges of our times. Two years on, the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated these challenges that we face.

4. This necessitates that we the people, our governments, and the international organizations come together and intensify efforts to remain on course to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. If there is one lesson that we can draw, and should draw, from this pandemic, is how interdependent we are. The pandemic has been a stark reminder that in this interconnected and interdependent world, we succeed or fail together.

5. In our response to the pandemic, India has remained global in its outlook, extending medical assistance to over 150 countries and supporting the vaccination efforts of 95 countries. Domestically, India launched the world's largest vaccination programme using indigenously developed and WHO approved Covaxin as well as other vaccines, and has already administered more than 1.2

billion doses comprising 67% of our target vaccinations. We expect to produce over 5 billion vaccine doses for the world in 2022 in pursuit of our vision of ‘one earth, one health’.

6. Even as we recover from this pandemic, India remains steadfast in its international commitments towards eradicating poverty, combating climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, these objectives have become more pressing even as the ability of developing countries to cope with them has diminished. India continues to not only deliver on our climate commitments in Paris, but also to exceed them. Today India ranks 4th in the world in installed renewable energy capacity. Our non-fossil fuel energy has increased by more than 25% in the past 7 years. We expect to generate 50% of our energy from renewables by 2030. India has also promoted institutional solutions such as the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to enhance international cooperation in this area.

7. As we deliberate on how to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Action through Circular Economy, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi drew attention of the world leaders in Glasgow recently, to the SDG-12 and highlighted the importance of promoting an Environment Conscious Life-style. He stressed upon the need to promote mindful and deliberate utilization of resources instead of mindless and destructive consumption. This should be an important aspect of our quest for a sustainable future. Mahatma Gandhi said, and I quote “the world has enough for everyone’s need, but not everyone’s greed”.

8. In this decade of action for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, with the overhang of the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to build back better. Global supply chains must be resilient, trustworthy, transparent, and sustainable. The digital age should not be a source of digital divide in the world. The digital innovation eco-system in India is booming. India has developed vast experience of large-scale delivery of social services by leveraging digital technologies. India stands ready to share these technologies with the developing world as open source platforms under South-South Cooperation as well as by partnering with organization like UNIDO. Whether in health or in bridging the digital divide, India is ready to contribute to the solutions.

9. In this, we see an important role for UNIDO – a role that we Member States are already crafting be it in digital technologies and innovation, in Industry 4.0 or in inclusive and sustainable industrialization and circular economy.

10. Indeed with all our support, I believe UNIDO's relevance for both developing and developed nations is only set to grow. India is a founding member of UNIDO and hosts one of the largest and multidimensional technical cooperation portfolios of the organisation. The 'Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Development' is hosted by India. This facility can be an important pillar in the UNIDO's 'build back better' strategy for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation. And India is ready to partner UNIDO in this effort.

I thank you, Mr President